WAC 182-550-2590 Agency prior authorization requirements for Level 1 and Level 2 LTAC services. (1) The medicaid agency requires prior authorization for Level 1 and Level 2 long term acute care (LTAC) inpatient stays. The prior authorization process includes all the following:

(a) For an initial thirty-day stay:
   (i) The client must:
      (A) Be eligible under one of the programs listed in WAC 182-550-2575; and
      (B) Require Level 1 or Level 2 LTAC services as defined in WAC 182-550-1050.
   (ii) The LTAC provider of services must:
      (A) Before admitting the client to the LTAC hospital, submit a request for prior authorization to the agency by fax, electronic mail, or telephone, as published in the agency's LTAC billing instructions;
      (B) Include sufficient medical information to justify the requested initial stay;
      (C) Obtain prior authorization from the agency's medical director or designee, when accepting the client from the transferring hospital; and
      (D) Meet all the requirements in WAC 182-550-2580.

(b) For any extension of stay, the criteria in (a) of this subsection must be met, and the LTAC provider of services must submit a request for the extension of stay to the agency with sufficient medical justification.

(2) The agency authorizes Level 1 or Level 2 LTAC services for initial stays or extensions of stay based on the client's circumstances and the medical justification received.

(3) A client who does not agree with a decision regarding a length of stay has a right to a fair hearing under chapter 182-526 WAC. After receiving a request for a fair hearing, the agency may request additional information from the client and the facility, or both. After the agency reviews the available information, the result may be:

(a) A reversal of the initial agency decision;
(b) Resolution of the client's issue(s); or
(c) A fair hearing conducted according to chapter 182-526 WAC.

(4) The agency may authorize an administrative day rate payment, as well as payment for pharmacy services and pharmaceuticals, for a client who meets one or more of the following. The client:

(a) Does not meet the requirements for Level 1 or Level 2 LTAC services;
(b) Is waiting for placement in another hospital or other facility; or
(c) If appropriate, is waiting to be discharged to the client's residence.